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Customer No.: 7055

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Dr. Rüdiger KURTZ et al.) Confirmation No.: Unknown
)
Appln. No. : 10/619,424) Group Art Unit: Unknown
)
Filed : July 16, 2003) Examiner: Unknown
)
For : DEVICE AND PROCESS FOR IMPREGNATING A PAPER OR
CARDBOARD WEB

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

The following documents were cited in an Office Action of July 9, 2003 in German Patent Application No. 102 32 550.2, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the German Examiner cited the following documents:

- (1) German Patent No. 695 26 495 T2 published July 11, 1996; and
- (2) International Publication No. WO01/98585 A1 published December 27, 2001.

Moreover, for the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant submits herewith a copy of International Publication No. WO96/21061 published July 11, 1996, which is an English language family member of the above-cited German Patent No. 695 26 495 T2.

In the above-noted German Office Action, the Examiner made the following comments regarding the cited art and the claims of the German application:

The following references are cited for the first time in this Office Action (the numbering shall also apply to subsequent proceedings):

E1) DE 695 26 495 T2

E2) WO 01/98 585 A1

The examination of the application was based on the originally filed documents.

Reference 1 shows and describes a device with all the features of the preamble of claim 1 (cf. Fig. 1 and, in particular, pages 4 through 11 of the specification).

Reference 2 gives one skilled in the art, who in this case can be expected to be a qualified mechanical engineer with many years of experience in the construction and development of paper machinery, in particular presses (size presses) and calenders, the suggestion of arranging the coating device in the web travel path after the calender with a nip extended in the travel direction of the web (cf. in particular Fig. 2 and claim 9).

On the basis of the prior art according to reference 1 in conjunction with the suggestions from reference 2, one skilled in the art thus achieves the device according to claim 1 without any inventive activity.

Claim 1 is therefore not patentable.

The same applies to the process according to claim 10. This repeats the constructive design features of claim 1 with measures presented in process terms. Claim 10 is therefore not patentable either for the above reasons.

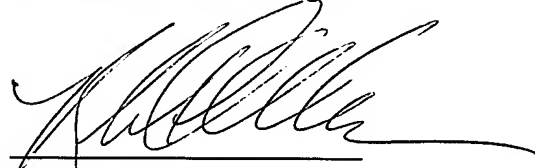
The features of all the dependent claims can likewise be taken from reference 2 in an identical manner.

The application is therefore not patentable.

Each of the above-cited documents are listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Rüdiger KURTZ *et al.*



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October 15, 2003
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